

REMARKS

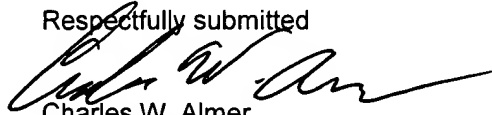
Claims 1 – 58 are pending in the present application. Claims 13 – 58 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1 – 12 were rejected in the Final Rejection mailed on March 8, 2004.

In the Advisory Action mailed June 24, 2004 the Examiner withdrew the rejection of claims 1 – 12 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Applicants are grateful for this withdrawal.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 – 12 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claim 2 has been cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended to indicate that the polymer gel is formed from the ingredients set out in the claim. Claims 3 – 12 are all either directly or indirectly dependent upon claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejections to claims 1 and 3 – 12 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. If there are any issues that the Examiner wishes to discuss, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted



Charles W. Almer

Reg. No.36,731

Tel. No. 908 707-3738

National Starch and Chemical Company
10 FINDERNE AVENUE
BRIDGEWATER, NJ 08807